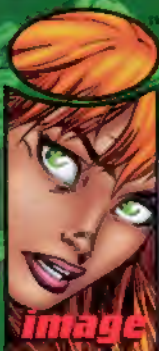


WILDSTORM RISING™

CHAPTER 4

GEN 13



2
MAY

\$2.50
\$3.55
CANADA



JOHN
CHOI • CAMPBELL • GARNER



2
MAY

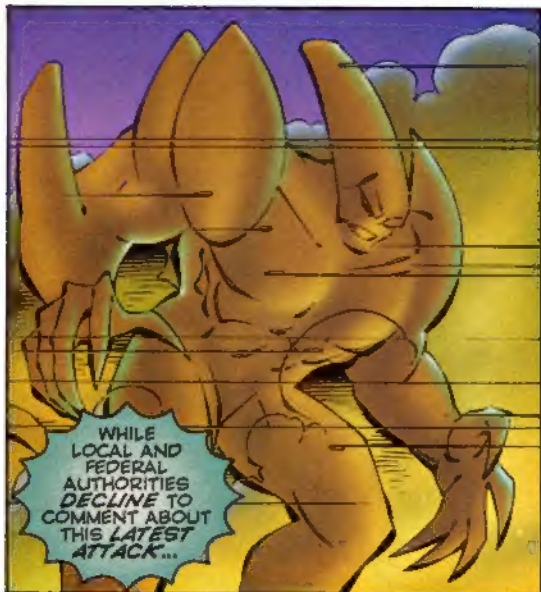
\$2.50
\$3.95
CANADA

GUN 13



CHOI • CAMPBELL • GARNER







FOR THE MOMENT, HOWEVER, THE ONLY THING **CERTAIN** IS THAT THE ATTACKER IS **STILL AT LARGE** AND COULD VERY WELL STRIKE AGAIN.

THIS IS COLLEEN CHEN, CNN NEWS, WHITE SANDS, NEW MEXICO.

SO, HELMUT IS BACK IN BUSINESS... AND IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S MAKING UP FOR **LOST TIME**.

I WARNED THEM 25 YEARS AGO THAT A MAXIMUM SECURITY PRISON WASN'T GOING TO BE **ENOUGH** TO HOLD HIM.



YOU ACTUALLY **KNOW** THIS CRIMINAL, SIR?

I WAS THE MAN WHO PUT HIM AWAY AFTER HIS **FIRST CRIME SPREE**, ANNA.

BEFORE **TEAM 7**, I WAS JUST A YOUNG ADVENTURER OUT TO MAKE A REPUTATION. IN THE **PROCESS**, I NEARLY GOT MYSELF **KILLED** BRINGING HELMUT TO JUSTICE.



AT HIS **TRIAL**, HELMUT SWORE HE'D GET **EVEN** WITH ME.

WILL HE **STILL** COME AFTER YOU, SIR?

DO YOU THINK THE **CHILDREN** ARE IN ANY DANGER?



IF I'VE LEARNED NOTHING ELSE FROM ALL MY YEARS WITH I.O., IT'S TO **ALWAYS** EXPECT THE **UNEXPECTED**.

THE FOLLOWING
MORNING...

BEACH BLANKET BRAWL!

BRANDON CHOI &
J. SCOTT CAMPBELL
STORY

J. SCOTT CAMPBELL
PENCILS

ALEX GARNER
INKS

JOE CHIDO
COLORS

RICHARD STARKINGS
COMICRAFT
LETTERING

HEY,
BOB! HOW
RAD IS THIS
INVERT?

IT JUST
DOESN'T GET ANY
SMOOTHER.

HIS NAME IS
PERCIVAL EDMUND
CHANG, BUT NOBODY
CALLS HIM
THAT.

IN GRADE SCHOOL
EVERYONE JUST
CALLED HIM EDDY.

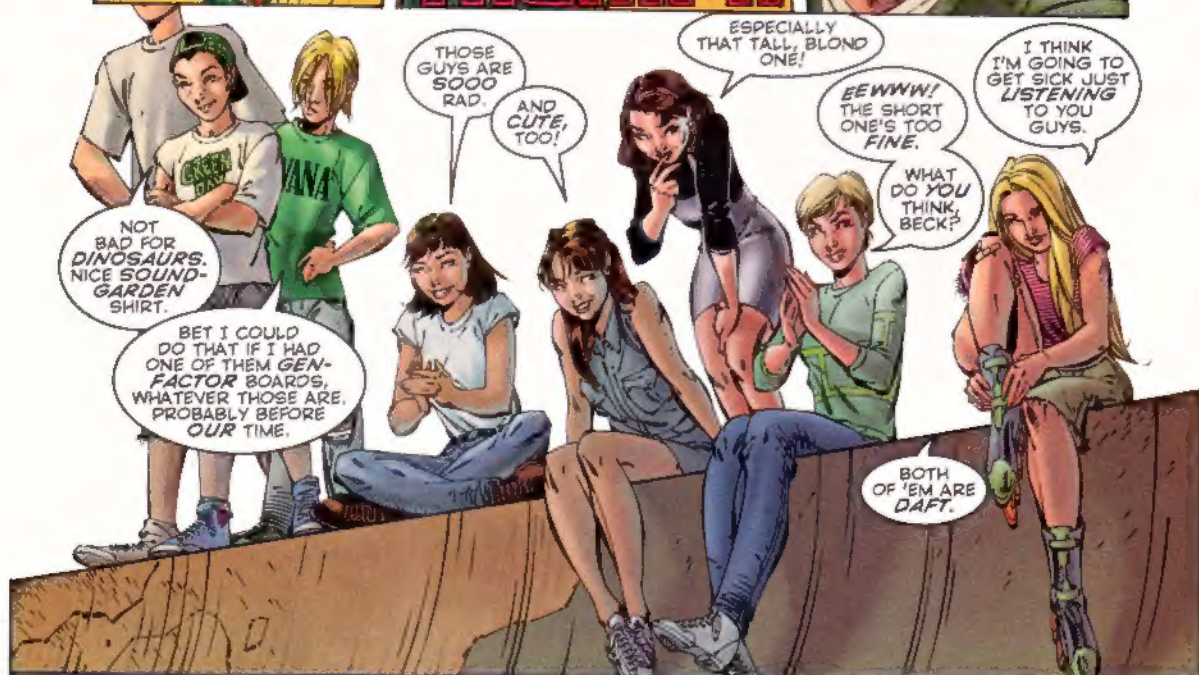
HE NOW PREFERS
THE NAME GRUNGE,
SYMBOLIC OF HIS
LIFESTYLE.

A LIFE THAT HAS RECENTLY GONE
THROUGH SOME MAJOR CHANGES.
UP UNTIL A FEW MONTHS AGO, HE'D
JUST BEEN ONE OF DOZENS OF KIDS
INVOLVED IN A SECRET GOVERNMENT
EXPERIMENT CALLED PROJECT
GENESIS.

A PROGRAM WHERE
SELECT LATENT GEN-
ACTIVE PARTICIPANTS
WERE TO BE
TRANSFORMED INTO
SUPER-SOLDIERS IN
THE SERVICE OF I.O.

BUT FORTUNATELY FOR GRUNGE,
FAIRCHILD, FREEFALL, RAINMAKER,
AND BURNOUT, THEY WERE ALL RESCUED
FROM THAT FATE BY JOHN LYNCH,
A DIRECTOR OF I.O.
WHO BETRAYED
THE AGENCY TO SAVE
THEIR LIVES.

ON A BEAUTIFUL SATURDAY
MORNING, HOWEVER, THE
ONLY THING ON GRUNGE'S
MIND IS HANGING OUT WITH
HIS PAL AT A LOCAL MINI-
RAMP IN PACIFIC BEACH.





GREAT
SESSION,
GUYS!

OUR
PLEASURE!

LOOKS
LIKE WE GOT
OUR OWN
GROUPIES.



THINK
SO?

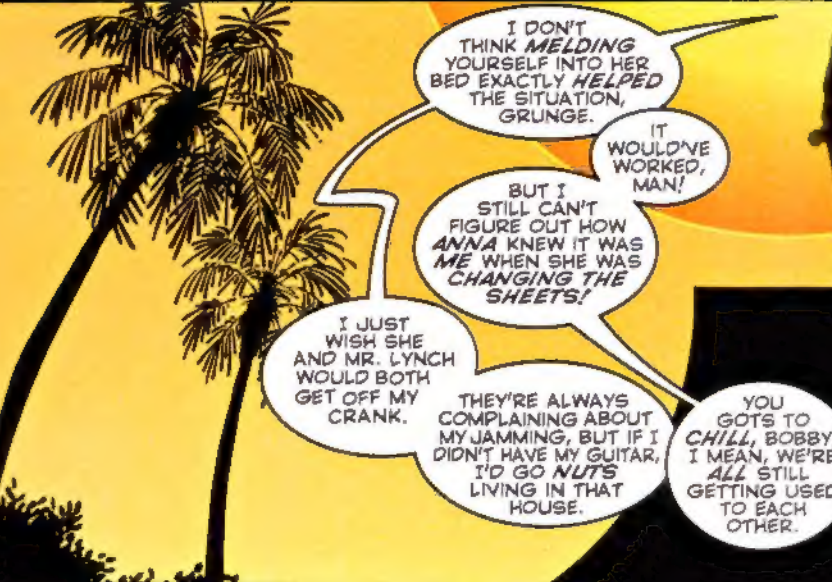
I WISH
IT WAS THIS
EASY GETTING
SARAH'S
ATTENTION.

STILL
NO LUCK,
HUHP



EVERY
TIME I TRY
TO GET CLOSE,
SHE SHUTS
ME DOWN.

I GET
THE SAME
VIBES FROM
KAT.



I DON'T
THINK *MELDING*
YOURSELF INTO HER
BED EXACTLY HELPED
THE SITUATION,
GRUNGE.

IT
WOULDN'T
WORKED,
MAN!

BUT I
STILL CAN'T
FIGURE OUT HOW
ANNA KNEW IT WAS
ME WHEN SHE WAS
CHANGING THE
SHEETS!

I JUST
WISH SHE
AND MR. LYNCH
WOULD BOTH
GET OFF MY
CRANK.

THEY'RE ALWAYS
COMPLAINING ABOUT
MY JAMMING, BUT IF I
DIDN'T HAVE MY GUITAR,
I'D GO NUTS
LIVING IN THAT
HOUSE.

YOU
GOTS TO
CHILL, BOBBY!
I MEAN, WE'RE
ALL STILL
GETTING USED
TO EACH OTHER.

BUT, HEY,
WE'VE GOT THE
SUN, THE WAVES,
OUR BOARDS, AND
SOME SKATE
BETTYS.

JUST
DON'T ROCK
THE BOAT AND
WE'RE IN FOR
SOME SMOOTH
SAILING.

DEFILE'S
SANCTUM...

BY THE
BLOODY BONES OF
DAMNATION!

THOUGH
MY AGENTS ARE
TRACKING DOWN ALL THE
OTHER MEMBERS OF
TEAM 7, I HAVE NO
LEADS ON JOHN
LYNCH!

THIS IS
INTOLERABLE!

INTOLERABLE,
LORD DEFILE.

BUT THERE
IS SOMEONE WHO
MIGHT --

DID I GIVE
YOU PERMISSION
TO SPEAK,
MISCREANT?!

CAN'T YOU
SEE THAT I'M
STANDING ON THE
VERY THRESHOLD OF A
GLORIOUS VICTORY OVER
THE ACCURSED
KHERUBIM?!

BUT
I NEED THAT
FINAL KEY, AND
ONE OF THESE
MEN HAS IT!
BUT WHICH
ONE?!

IT
WOULD BE A
FOUL TWIST OF
FATE IF THIS MAN,
LYNCH, WERE TO
POSSESS THE
KEY!

SO,
WHAT WERE YOU
PRATTLING ABOUT,
JODUNN?

SOME-
ONE IS HERE
WHO CLAIMS TO
KNOW THE VERY
LOCATION OF THE
ONE YOU SEEK,
O DREADED
MASTER.

SWAHHAHA!

THAT IS WHY I TOLERATE YOUR MISERABLE EXISTENCE, JODUNN. YOU MAKE ME LAUGH!

WITH MY GLOBAL NETWORK OF AGENTS AND SPIES, HOW COULD ANYONE ELSE POSSIBLY KNOW MORE THAN ME?

MAYBE IT'S JUST A QUESTION OF BEING IN THE RIGHT PLACE AT THE RIGHT TIME, DEFILE.

I'VE BEEN TOLD THAT CLOSE ENCOUNTERS WITH YOU TEND TO BE FATAL.

SO DOES WASTING MY TIME!

NOW SPEAK -- WHAT IS YOUR PRICE FOR THE LOCATION OF JOHN LYNCH?

EHP! AND WHO ARE YOU?

SOME-ONE WHO HAS THE ANSWERS THAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR.

COME CLOSER, STRANGER, AND TELL ME WHAT YOU KNOW.

NOT TO BE RUDE, DEFILE, BUT I'D PREFER TO KEEP MY DISTANCE.

THE SECRETS OF MILES CRAVEN.

CRAVEN, EHP?

I LIKE YOUR STYLE, MY FRIEND.

LET'S TALK...



ELSEWHERE...

COME ON MARCEL!

YOU KNOW I'M GOOD FOR THE DOUGH! HAVEN'T YOU BEEN WATCHING THE NEWS LATELY?! I'M LOADED, BABY.

ONCE I DUMP SOME OF THIS HARDWARE WITH MY FRIENDS IN LIBYA AND NORTH KOREA, I'LL HAVE \$120 MILLION IN MY SWISS ACCOUNT.

ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS INVEST IT IN SOME DERIVATIVES FOR ME. WHEN THE NIKKEI HITS 18,000, SELL IT ALL AND RAKE IN MY CASHOLA!

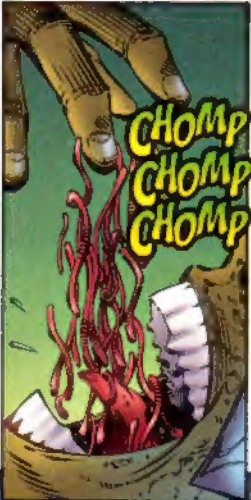
AFTER YOU GET YOUR PERCENTAGE, WE'LL BOTH BE FILTHY RICH!



HEHEHE. I KNEW YOU'D COME AROUND --

... OTHERWISE, I'D HAVE TO KILL YOU.

WORK BAIT



CHOMP
CHOMP
CHOMP



BY THE WAY, MARCEL, SEND OVER SOME BABES!

AFTER MY LITTLE STINT IN PRISON, THIS HELMUT NEEDS SOME WAXING!

PIK
PIK



AS ALWAYS, IT'S A PLEASURE --
ARRRGH!

HELMUT!



DEFILE?!

I DIDN'T FREE YOU FROM PRISON JUST SO YOU COULD BECOME SOME PENNY-ANTE ARMS DEALER, HELMUT. YOU'D DO WELL TO REMEMBER OUR BARGAIN!

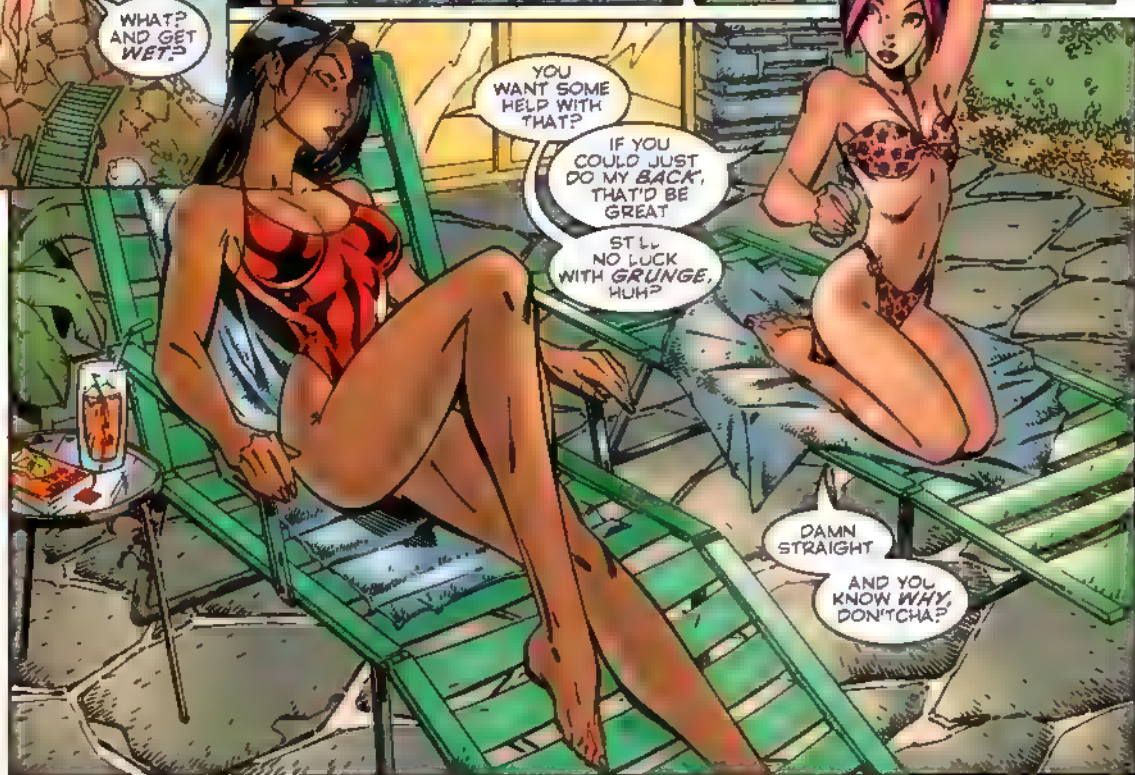
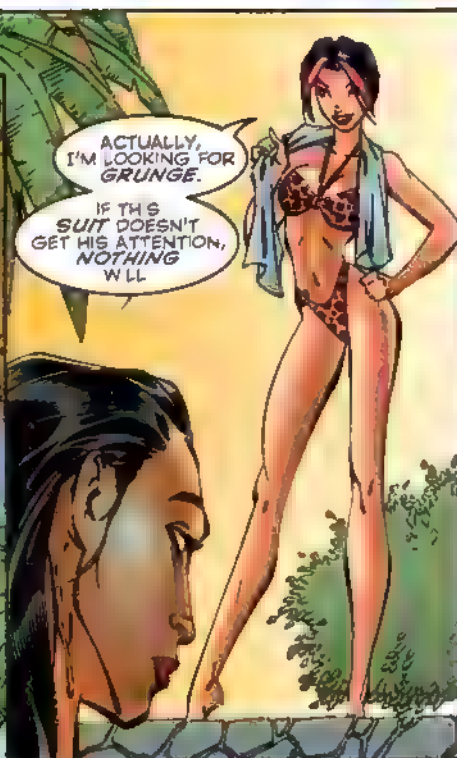
ARRGH! I -- REMEMBER!

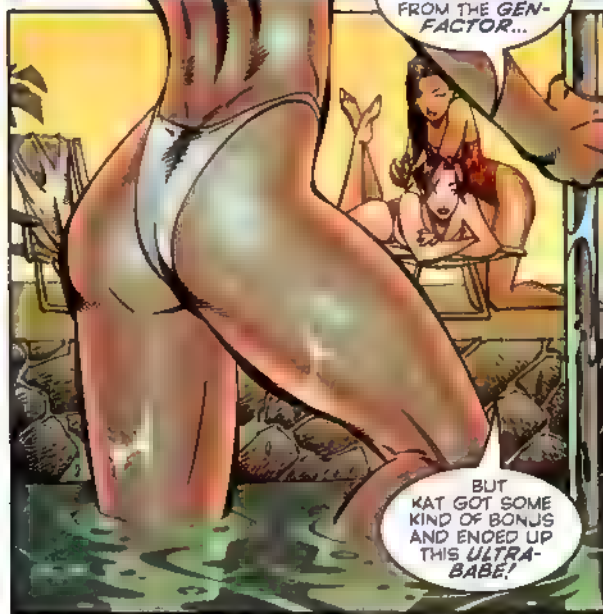
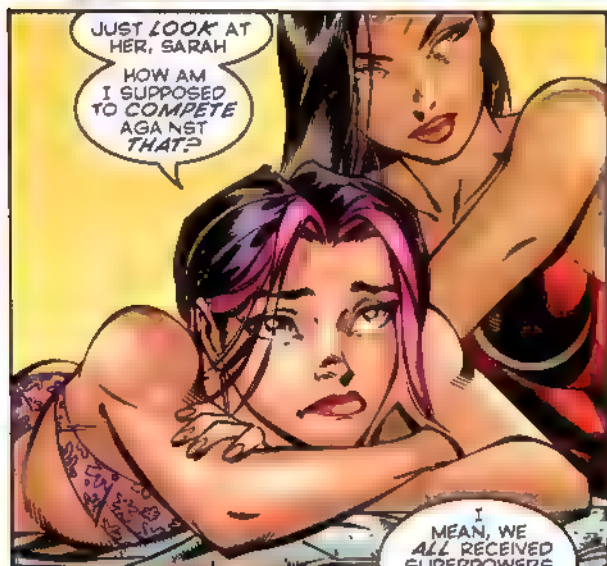
BUT I -- DON'T KNOW -- WHERE HE IS!

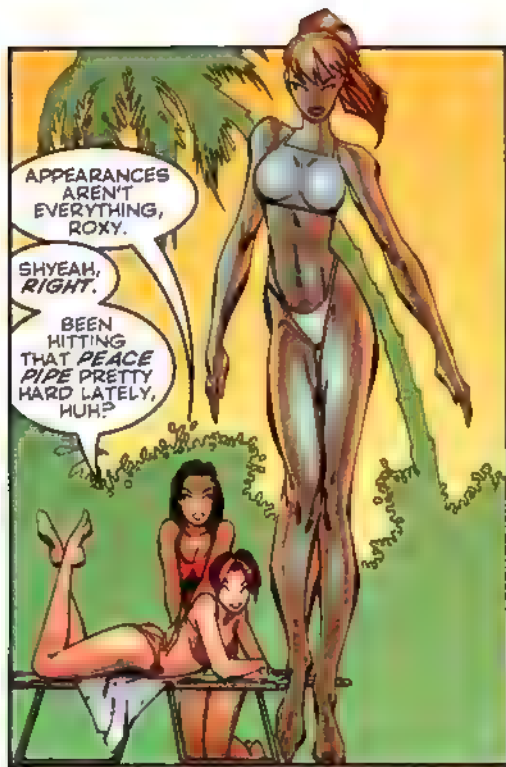
I'VE ALREADY TAKEN CARE OF THAT PROBLEM. ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS BRING HIM TO ME.

ARRGH! STOP THE PAIN!

I'LL DO AS YOU SAY --







APPEARANCES
AREN'T
EVERYTHING,
ROXY.

SHYEAH,
RIGHT.

BEEN
HITTING
THAT PEACE
PIPE PRETTY
HARD LATELY,
HUH?



OKAY,
OKAY.

END OF
LECTURE

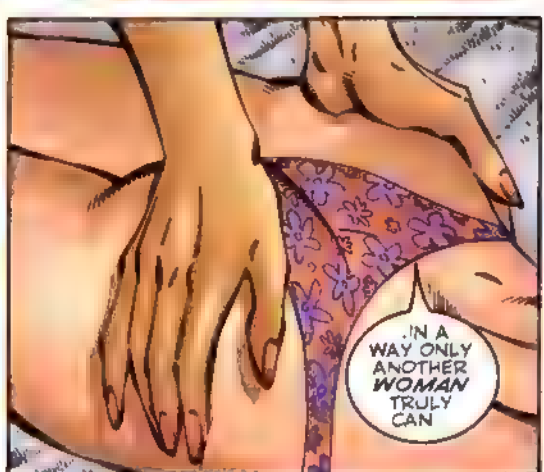


BUT JUST
BETWEEN
YOU AND ME,
I CAN ACTUALLY
UNDERSTAND
GRUNGE'S



"DESIRES"
PRIMITIVE
AS THEY MAY
BE

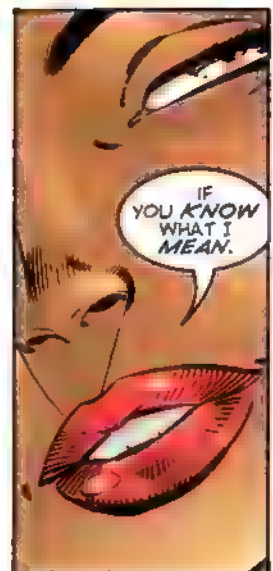
BUT IT'S
AN ALTOGETHER
DIFFERENT MATTER
WHETHER GRUNGE
CAN SATISFY
CAITLIN'S
NEEDS



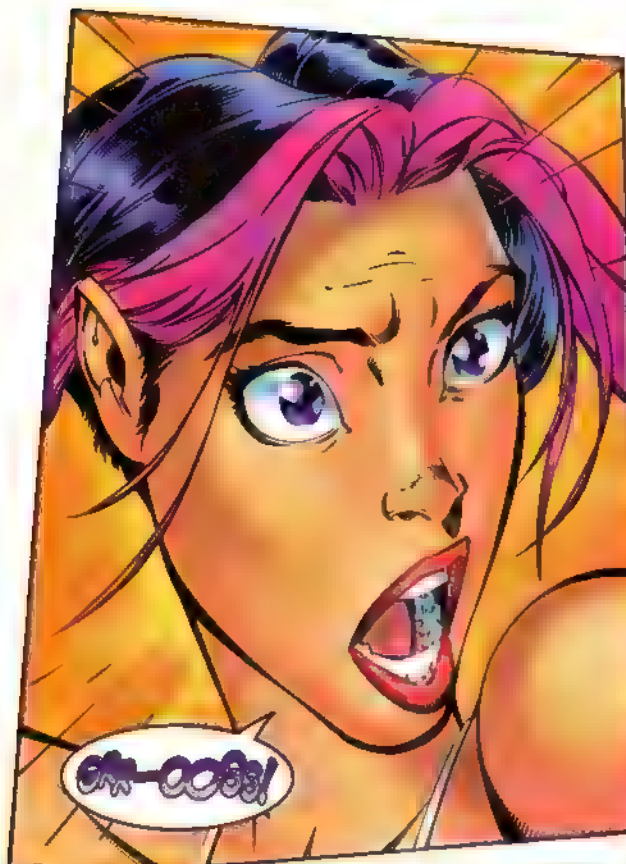
IN A
WAY ONLY
ANOTHER
WOMAN
TRULY CAN

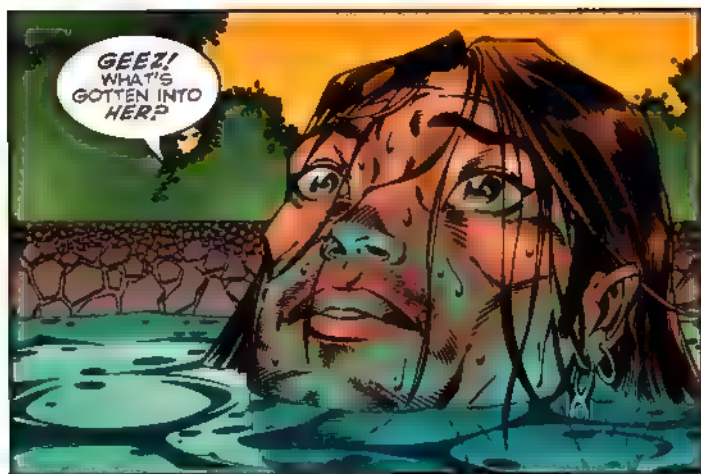


!!!



IF
YOU KNOW
WHAT I
MEAN.





GEEZ!
WHAT'S
GOTTEN INTO
HERP



CATLIN?

MAY I
HAVE A
WORD WITH
YOU?

HMM?



SURE,
MR LYNCH
WHAT'S
UP?

I DON'T
WANT TO **ALARM**
YOU, BUT I THOUGHT
YOU AND THE OTHER
KIDS SHOULD
KNOW--

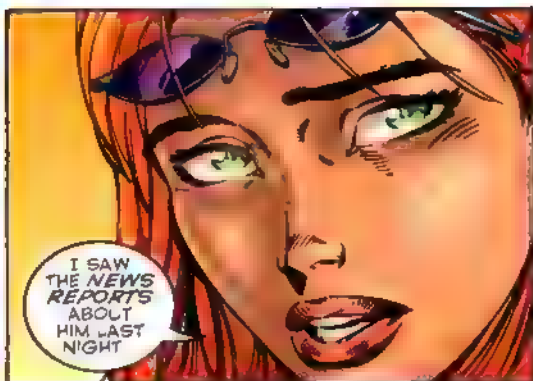
ABOUT
HELMUT?

THE GUY
WHO BROKE OUT
OF PRISON AND HAS
BEEN ROBBING ALL
THOSE **MUNITIONS**
DEPOTS

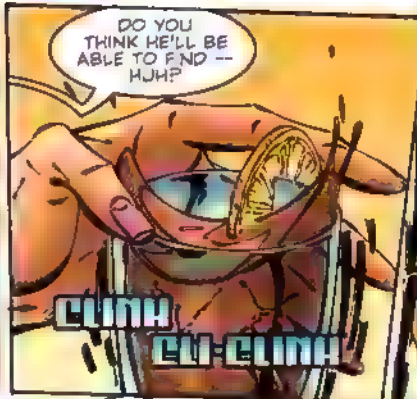
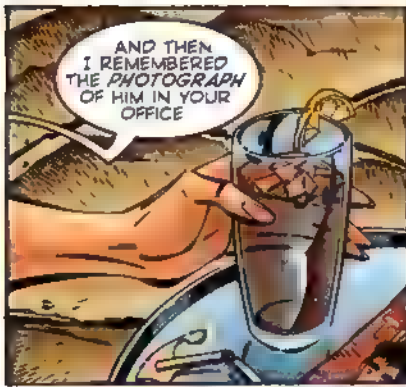
YOU'RE
WORRIED
THAT HE MAY
COME AFTER
YOU

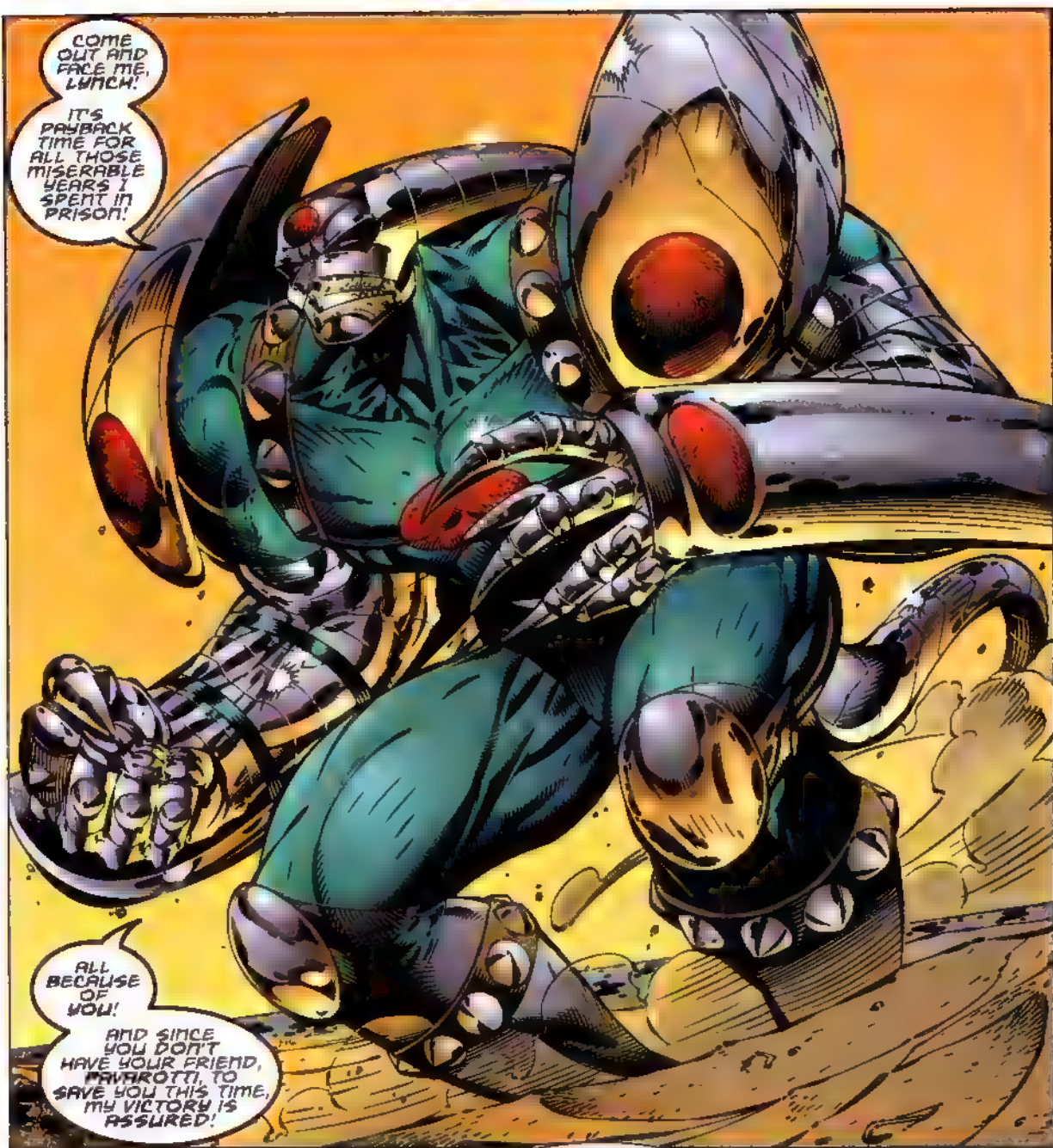


HOW
DID YOU
KNOW?



I SAW
THE **NEWS**
REPORTS
ABOUT
HIM LAST
NIGHT





COME
OUT AND
FACE ME,
LUNCH!

IT'S
PAYBACK
TIME FOR
ALL THOSE
MISERABLE
YEARS I
SPENT IN
PRISON!

ALL
BECAUSE
OF
YOU!

AND SINCE
YOU DON'T
HAVE YOUR FRIEND,
FAVAROTTI, TO
SAVE YOU THIS TIME,
MY VICTORY IS
ASSURED!

YOU'LL
STILL HAVE
TO GET
PAST US,
MONSTER!

UH SO
WHAT'RE WE
SUPPOSED
TO DO
NOW?

WE
TAKE THE
FIGHT
TO HIM,
BOBBY!

HOW'D I
KNOW YOU
WERE GOING
TO SAY
THAT?

ZZRRRAAPP



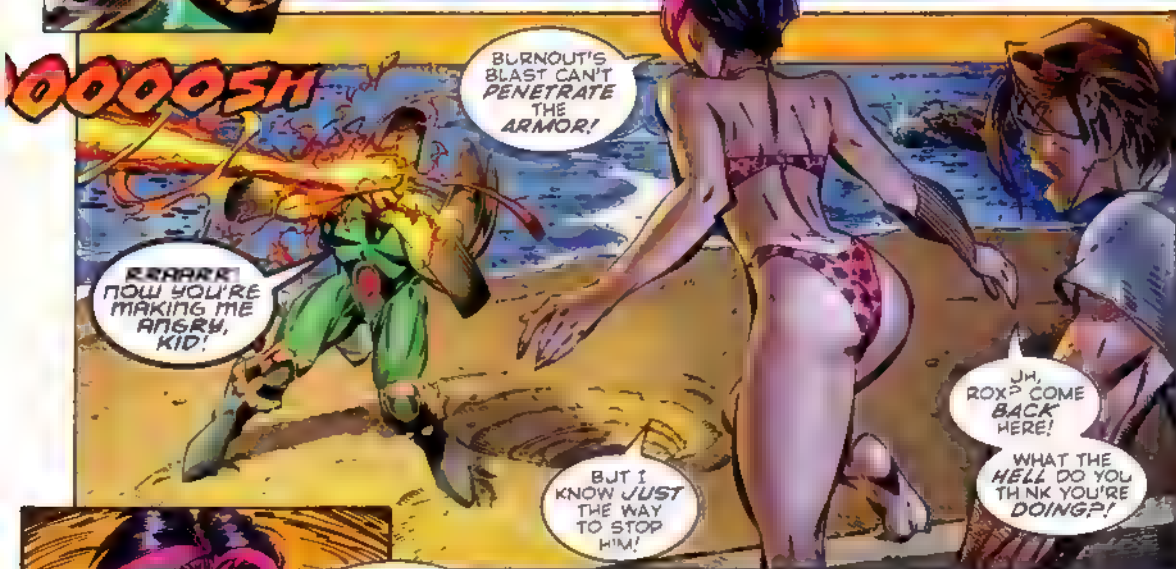
HEHEHE!
THAT
TICKLES,
BABY!

I'VE
HAD WORSE
FROM STATIC
CLING

I-- I
JUST DON'T
HAVE ENOUGH
POWER WTHOUT
MY AMPLI-
BANDS.

NO SWEAT,
SARAH! I'VE GOT
THE S TUATION
UNDER
CONTROL!

LET'S SEE
HIM LAUGH OFF
ONE OF MY
PLASMA
BLASTS.



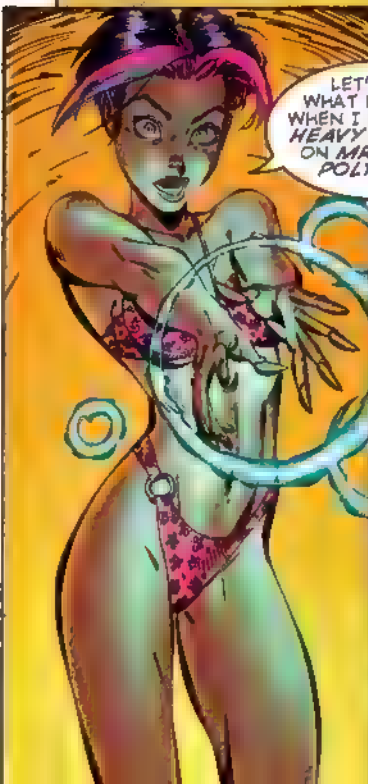
BURNOUT'S
BLAST CAN'T
PENETRATE
THE
ARMOR!

RRRRR!
NOW YOU'RE
MAKING ME
ANGRY,
KID!

BUT I
KNOW JUST
THE WAY
TO STOP
HIM!

JH,
ROXP COME
BACK
HERE!

WHAT THE
HELL DO YOU
THINK YOU'RE
DOING?!

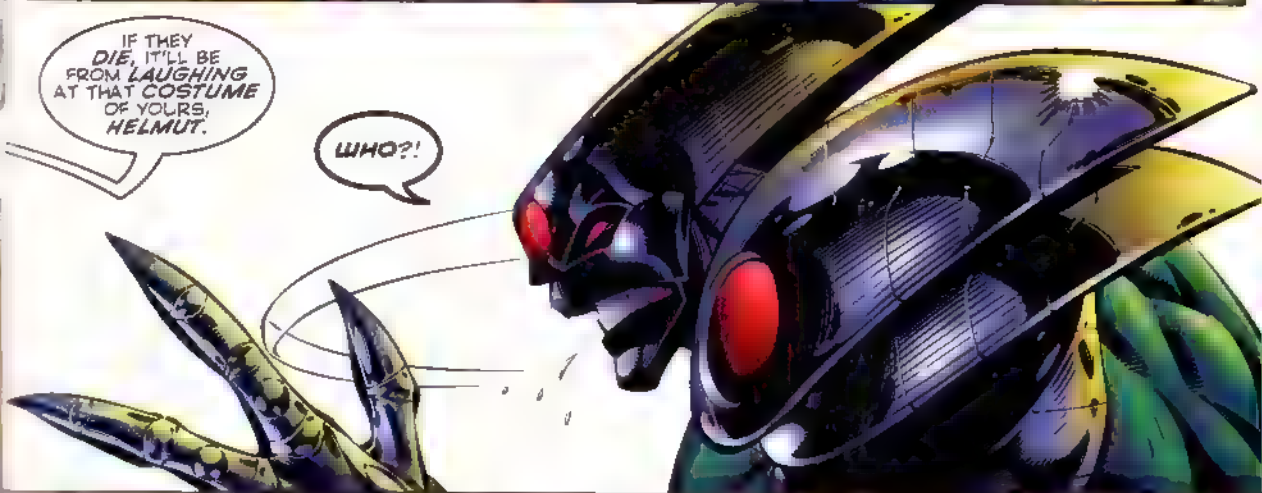
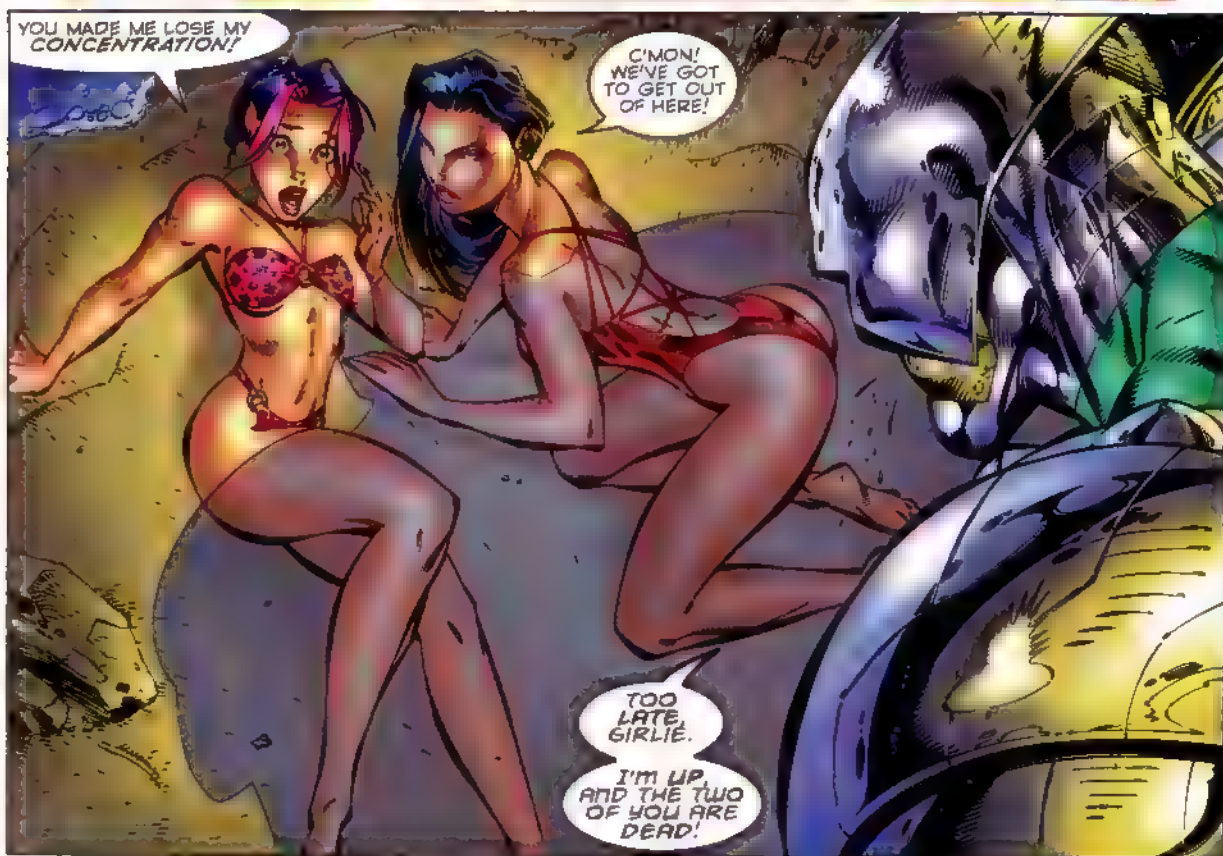
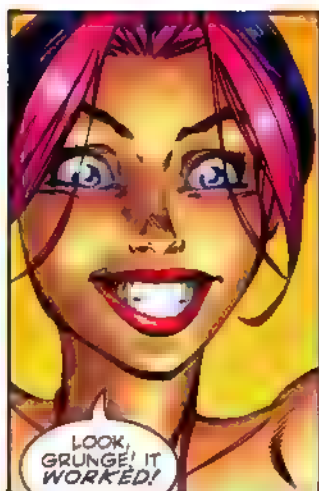


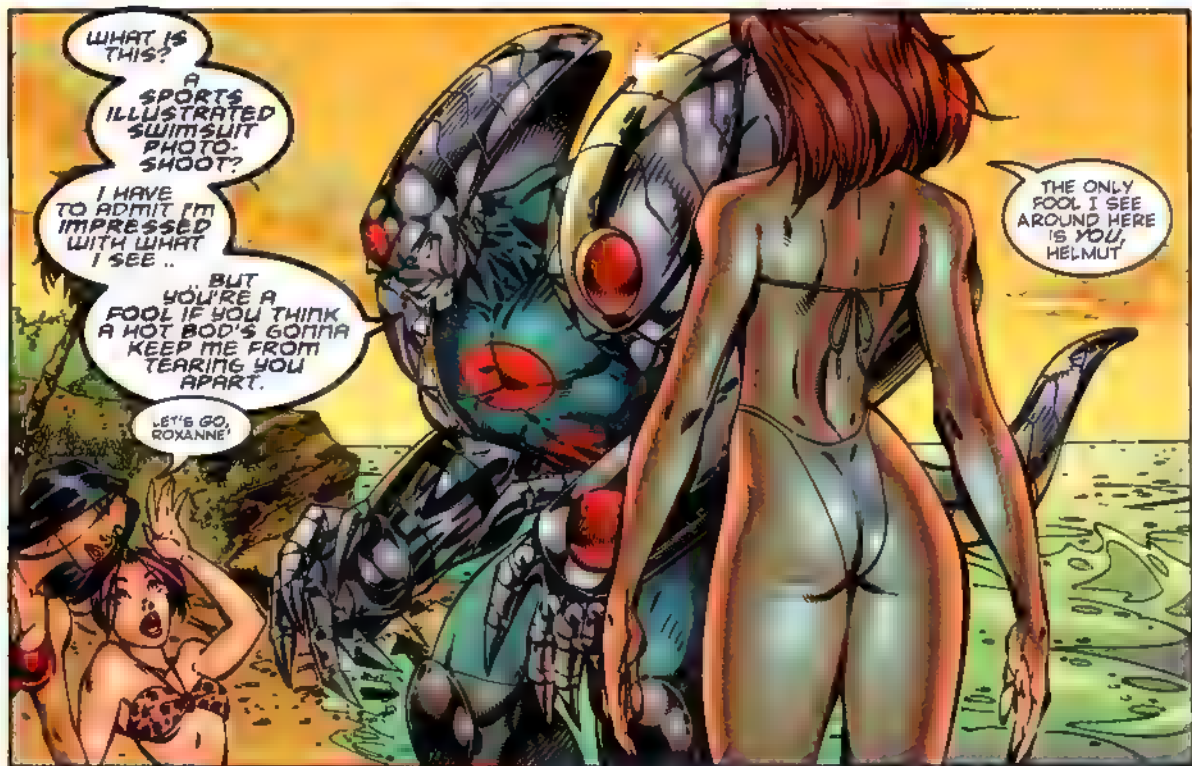
LET'S SEE
WHAT HAPPENS
WHEN I USE SOME
HEAVY GRAVITY
ON MR. ROLY-
POLY HERE!



UNNNH?!
WHAT'S
-- GOING
ON?

CAN'T --
STAND --
UP!





WHAT IS THIS?

A SPORTS ILLUSTRATED SWIMSUIT PHOTO-SHOOT?

I HAVE TO ADMIT I'M IMPRESSED WITH WHAT I SEE...

BUT YOU'RE A FOOL IF YOU THINK A HOT BOY'S GONNA KEEP ME FROM TEARING YOU APART.

LET'S GO, ROXANNE!

THE ONLY FOOL I SEE AROUND HERE IS YOU, HELMUT



IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE YOU'D BE STUPID ENOUGH TO GO AFTER THE ONE MAN WHO LOCKED YOU UP IN THE FIRST PLACE

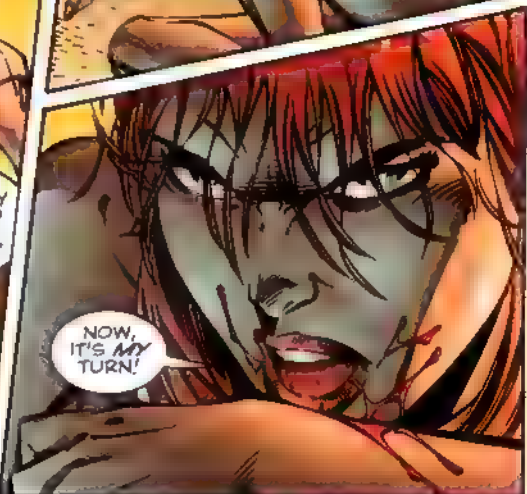
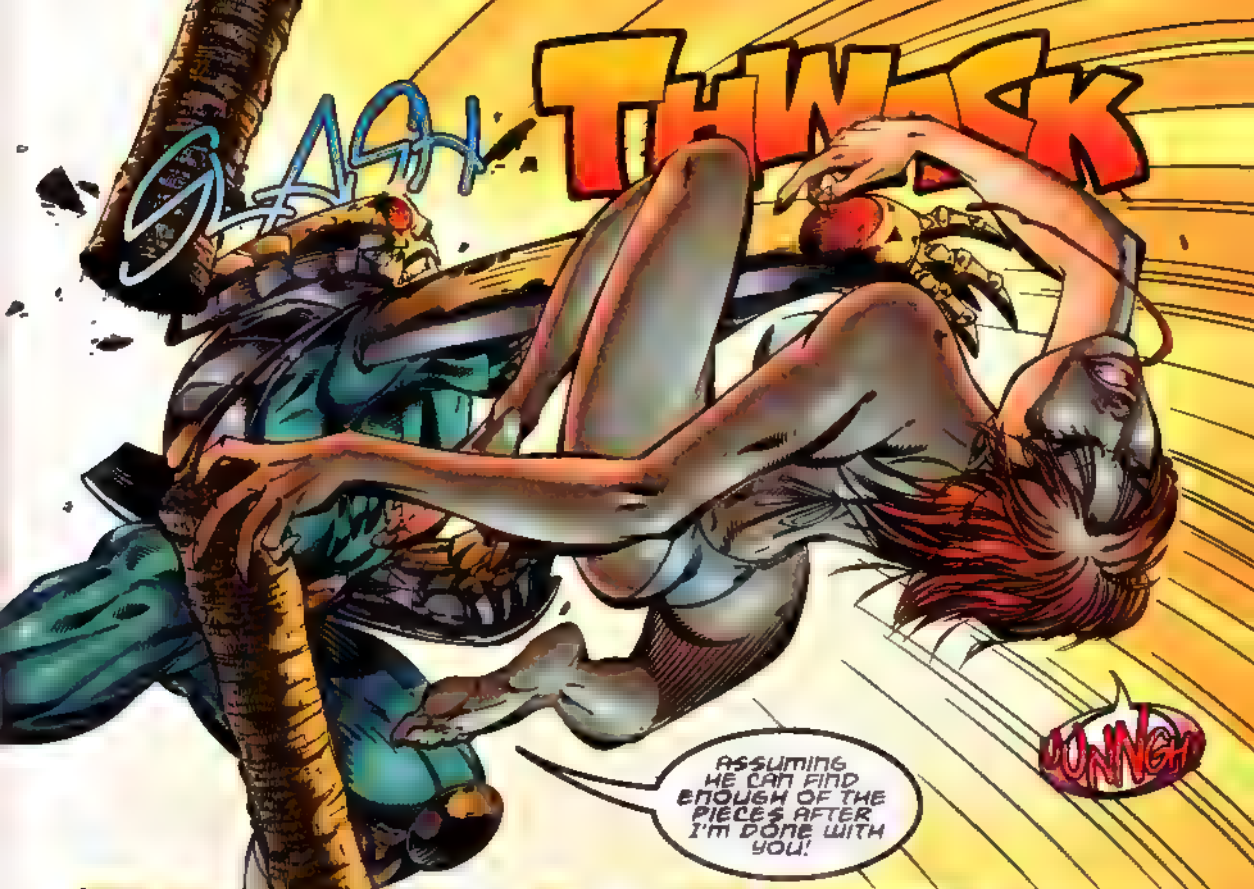
BUT THEN AGAIN, I DON'T SUPPOSE SOMEONE WHO RUNS AROUND DRESSED LIKE AN OVER-GROWN ARMADILLO IS GOING TO BE MISTAKEN FOR A ROCKET SCIENTIST.

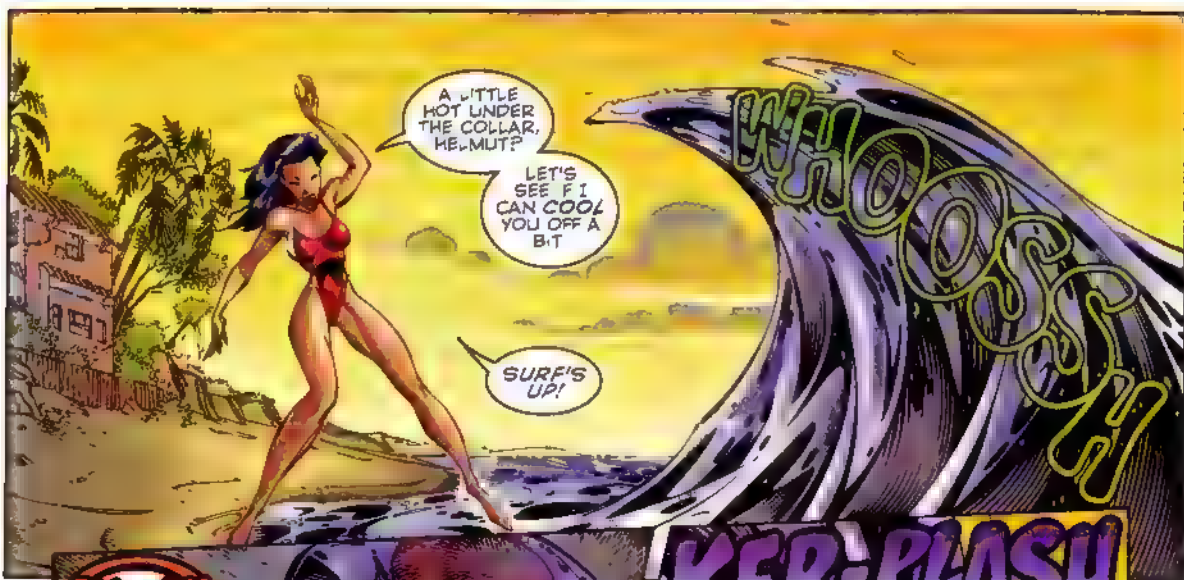
YOU!

YOU DARE TO MOCK ME?!

I'M GOING TO RELISH WATCHING LUNCH WEEP OVER YOUR LIFELESS CORPSE!

RRRUUMMMMMBBBLEE





A LITTLE HOT UNDER THE COLLAR, HELMUT?

LET'S SEE IF I CAN COOL YOU OFF A BIT

SURF'S UP!

WHOOSH!!



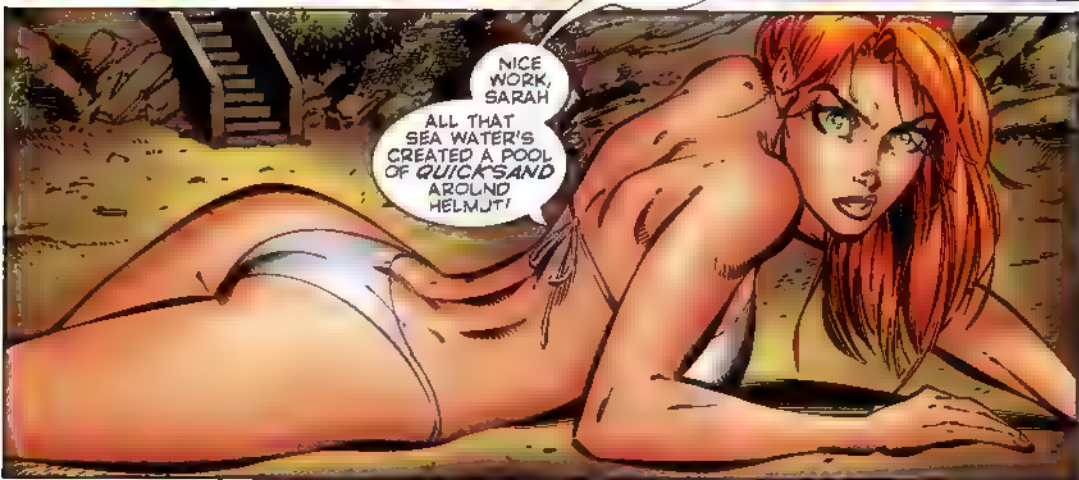
D'OH!



KER-PLASH

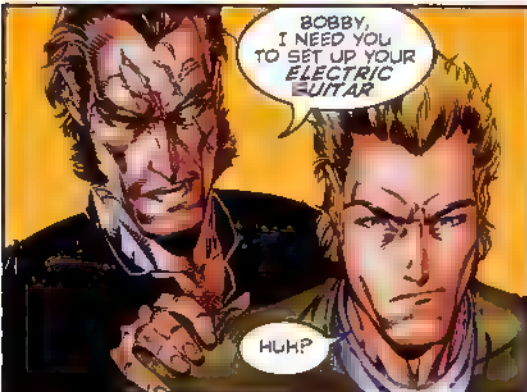
-GLUB
-GLUB
-GLUB-

WPEOUT!



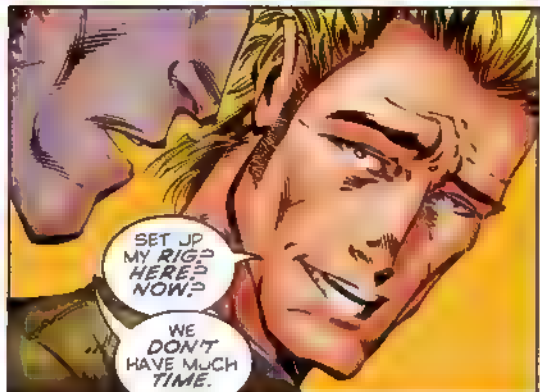
NICE WORK, SARAH

ALL THAT SEA WATER'S CREATED A POOL OF QUICKSAND AROUND HELMUT!



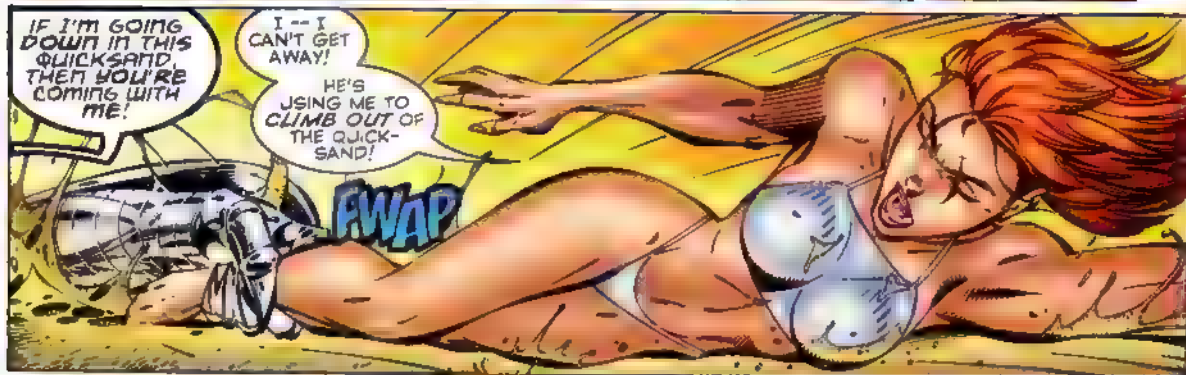
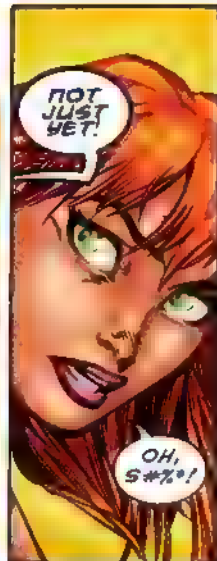
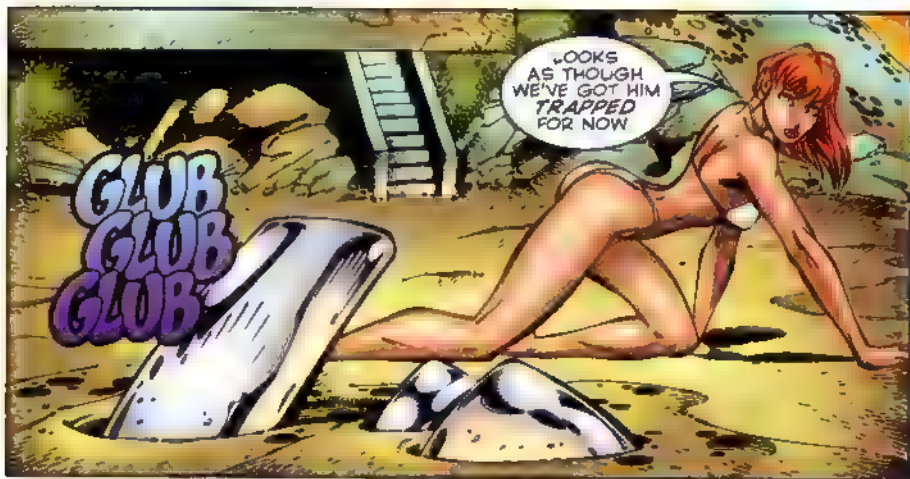
BOBBY, I NEED YOU TO SET UP YOUR ELECTRIC GUITAR

HUHP



SET UP MY RIG? HERE? NOW?

WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME.





THAT NOISE! THAT HORRIBLE NOISE!

STOOOP IIIIT!

IT MAY BE THE ONLY CHORD HE KNOWS, BUT RIGHT NOW IT'S MUSIC TO MY EARS!

KEEP PLAYING, BOBBY!

PWERSH! MY HEAD!

PAIN! UNBEARABLE PAIN!

WRRRANNG

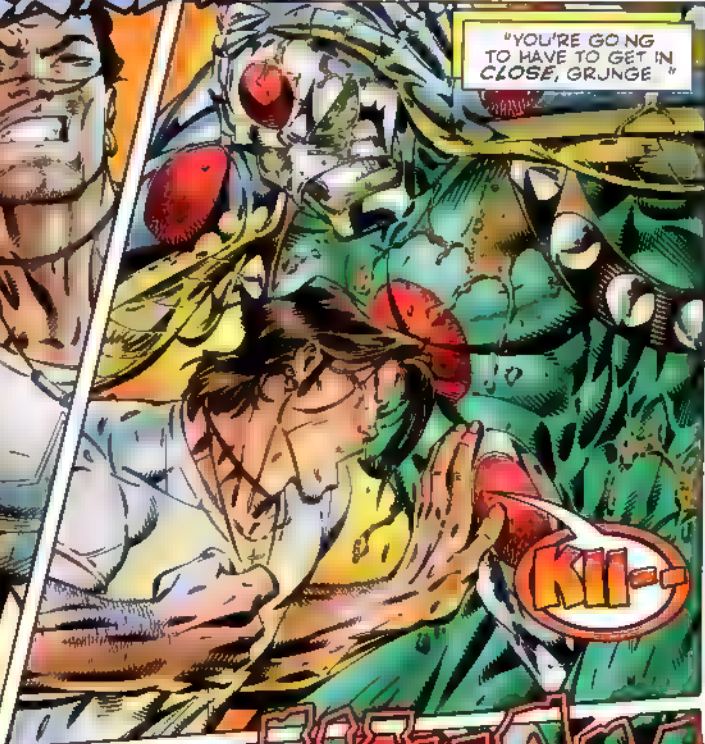


THOSE SPEAKERS ARE GOING TO BLOW ANY SECOND NOW!

SO WE'VE GOT TO FINISH HELMUT WHILE HE'S STILL VULNERABLE!

WHAT'S THE PLAN, BOSS?

THE LOCKING MECHANISM FOR HELMUT'S ARMOR IS IN HIS BELT!



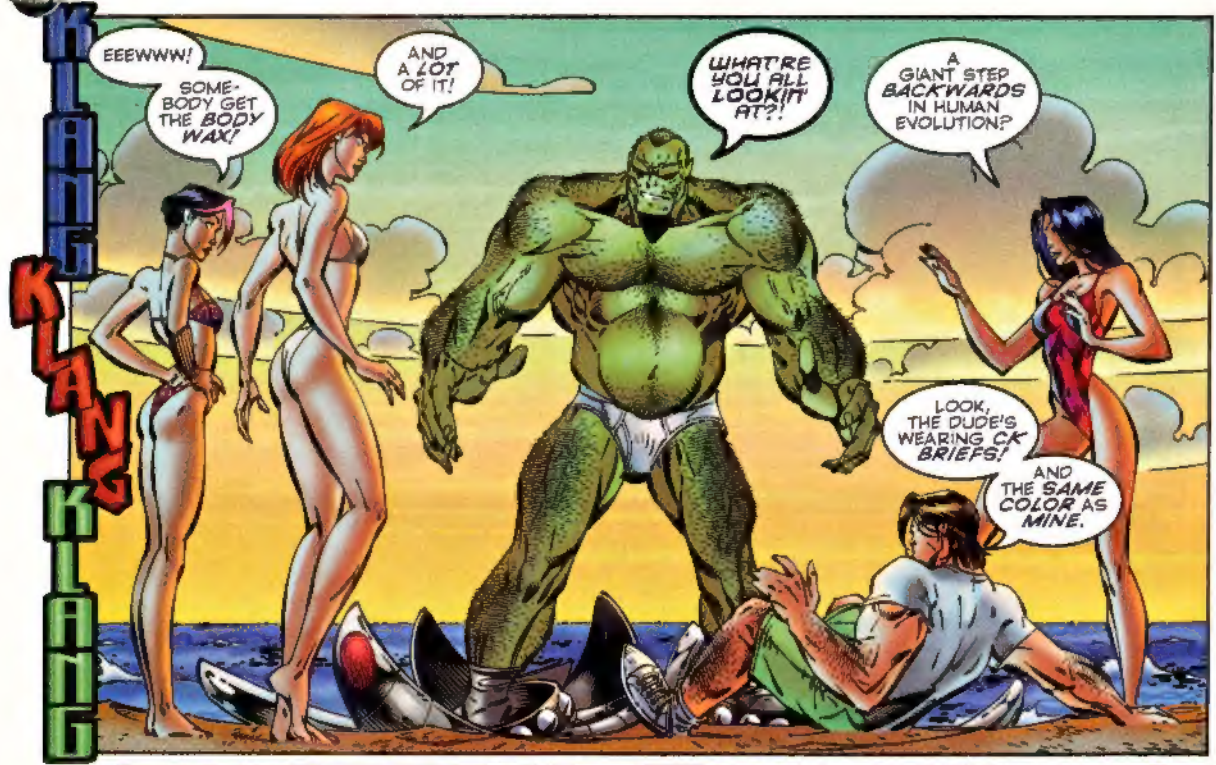
"YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO GET IN CLOSE, GRUNGE"

KII-!

AND KNOCK IT OUT OF COMMISSION!"

YAH!

EVERYTHING
SROING



TALKIN'
'BOUT
MY

GEN

ERATION

HOMAGE STUDIOS • 7910 IVANHOE AVENUE • SUITE 438 • LA JOLLA, CA 92037



Greetings to the Gen¹³ crew!

Well then, mates, you must be up to something good, 'cause *Gen¹³* is the first comic I've purchased off the newsstand in years! Underground comix have been my staple until Fairchild and company caught my eye.

Let's just say that you guys have created THE heroic team for the '90s. Looking forward to reading *Gen¹³* into the 21st century. Thanx for bringing a great action-packed read to me.

Yours,
GEN-FAN-DAN,
Myrtle Beach, SC

P.S. Is there an official fan club? I'm interested in Gen goodies, but local comic shops in South Carolina tend to have more NASCAR paraphernalia than comics.

A fan club? Ack! I just read a million letters! You should see the mountain of mail next to my desk. Well, actually, it's not a mountain, just an enormous mail bin stuffed with enthusiastic letters, including yours. In the meantime, double check local stores for *Gen¹³* T-shirts and cloisonne pins. *Gen¹³* binders and caps will be made available this summer.

Dear Gen Creators,

It's refreshing to finally find a comic with teens that actually act like your average, everyday, not-so-normal teenager. Their attitudes and personalities really come to life. I was just wondering: how many sunglasses does the team have? Where can I buy them? Also, in the *Gen¹³* Rave, there was a pin-up of some real people in Gen costumes. Where did you find people that resembled the characters? Especially Fairchild!

Congrats on an awesome comic, and whatever you do, don't make ten million different comics about the same people like X-Men. It gets really cheesy. Thanks and keep 'em coming!

Ken Gray,
Kansas City, MO

P.S. Unfortunately, I did not discover this outstanding comic until after the miniseries went sky high. I can't find the issues anywhere, and I would love to get the background info that everyone is raving about. Can you help?

Ken, last December WildStorm released the *Gen¹³* Collectors Edition. In this nifty, purple trade paperback, you will find all five issues of the miniseries. If there's enough demand, we may reprint it—Keep watching for details. The team has about 50 pairs of sunglasses they bought from local surf shops and the models featured in the poster all reside in southern California.

Dear Gen-ies,

What's up? I just wanted to tell you that the first issue of *Gen¹³* was slammin'! You had me reading your book three times over to see if I missed something. The first issue had me laughing, staring, and all out into the story. I've got to give it to you when Grunge-man said, "Think again, Beeyuch!" I laughed so hard, Coke flew out my nose. I also liked that other part, you know, "Hellllloo." I can't wait until the next issue.

I also have one question. Excuse me if I sound naive, but, uhhhh, what's up with all the number one issues? I mean, I went into my local comic bookstore to find *Gen¹³* #1. I look around, and I see it. I pick up the book and then see the same issue with a different cover. I look to the right, and there's another one with a different cover and under that one, 5,000 more covers. So I'm standing there like a jack @ss wondering if I have enough money to buy all of them. I was wondering if A) Are they the same story? B) Are they issues I've missed in the past? C) Are they just a ploy to drive me insane?

Thanks for the great book. And I'd like to give some shouts out to Brandon, J. Scott, Alex, and Jimbo.

See ya next issue,
Chris Davis,
Savannah, GA

P.S. You owe \$2.95 for a Coca Cola-stained comic book. Just kidding.

Definitely "C," Chris. It's our goal to make everyone nuts. Same story, different covers. We just wanted to have a little fun with *Gen¹³* #1. We didn't mean for you guys to bust open the piggy bank, steal your mom's grocery money, or tear apart the couch looking for quarters under the cushions!

Dear Gen-people,

I just bought *Gen¹³* #1. This is the greatest comic I've ever read, and I have read a lot of comics. J. Scott Campbell's art is totally fantastic, especially with all of the detail he puts into people's bodies and faces.

As a teenage girl, I like seeing a book about teenagers with abstract personalities that don't degrade us, but portray teenagers doing things that real teenagers can be found doing. Playing video games is something teenagers do, playing Scrabble is not. *Gen¹³* shows teenagers in outfits we want to wear, not preppish stuff our parents dream of dressing us in.

I love the way Freefall dresses, and her pierced navel makes her look even cooler. Pierced ears on guys, tattoos, and anything else pierced besides ears, and dyed hair are common among today's teenagers (to the abhorrence of our parents). The Gen kids also don't fit into certain molds. For example, Rainmaker appears to be the level-headed one in the group, yet you see her going around the house nude. Finally! Characters that aren't totally predictable. To me, these characters are just like real teenagers.

But that's just half of what makes this book so great. Besides the great story, art, and action, women's roles are also stressed by having female leaders. It looks like someone's stepped into the '90s! And also, the fact that there are more females than males on the team. I'm going to be a long-time buyer of this series. Thank you for \$2.95 worth of great entertainment.

J.C. Hu,
Hayward, CA

It seems like lots of the female fans are identifying with Freefall. Is it the pink bangs? Her rad outfits? Her independence? Pierced Navel? Clubbing? Bambi eyes? All of the above?!

Dear Jim,

What's wrong with this world? Greed, greed, greed! I tell you I'm on a ledge about to jump. I can't take it anymore! You see, I walked down to my local Los Angeles comic book store to buy a *Gen*² variant cover. When I entered, I saw the issue with Fairchild laying on her back looking seductive. I thought it was the hottest cover I had ever seen and it must be mine! Oh, yes! It must! But, to my dismay, I learned they were charging \$45.00 for it. Is that legal? \$45.00 for a comic that came out a week ago? Are they high? How could those fiends do this to me? I wanted that cover more than I wanted a hamburger at that moment. And I didn't eat breakfast that day, so you know I'm serious. I couldn't see any reason to go on, so I decided to end my misery. But how? Should I put my head in the oven? No, my senile grandfather was cooking a can of tuna. For the first time I was totally catatonic, devoid of any coherent thought except for the semi-nude Fairchild! I talked my girlfriend into coloring her hair red and wearing a green, skintight, lycra thong bathing suit. But, my lord, Jim! She's 285 lbs! It's not a pretty picture. If you fellows have a shred of decency, please send me a variant cover before I start taping QVC so I can watch and enjoy it at a later date!!

Mental,
Maurice Affonso,
Los Angeles, CA

That was Freefall on the Lin-GEN-re cover, not Fairchild. Freefall...

Dear Gen-erals,

It has been a while since I have been motivated to write to a comic book. Not since Superboy and The Legion of Super Heroes (Cockrum/Grell era) of the mid-seventies have I felt that tingle in my spine when I read a comic. Well, it happened again with *Gen*² #1 (March 1995)! It's been twenty years! What a great book! I guess you are definitely on to something...as if that were a surprise.

Issue #1 is a winner. The story was easy to follow (even for those of us who are a little behind), action-packed throughout, and, dare I say, fun. The artwork was phenomenal. Of course, your treatment of Fairchild, Freefall, and Rainmaker helps! I'm certain pages 8-9 will be talked about endlessly, but just let me say- Wow!

Finally, thanks for bringing back the simple thrill of comics to this reader

(31 years old, married, parent, banker). You've captured all the excitement and action without having to rely on blood and guts, big guns, or a demon from hell.

Can't wait till next month!

Albert Dale,
Nashville, TN

If you only knew how many adolescent boys (make that every guy in America) have a crush on Rainmaker. A gal grows her hair out and the guys go ballistic. Or, did you guys even NOTICE her new hairdo?

Dear Generation,

All I can say is, amazing! It's hard to believe that you guys actually finished all this detailed artwork in 30 days. Just unbelievable. The pencils, inks, and color are what make this book so great. And, of course, the plot. Fairchild and Grunge are my favorite characters.

For a while, I was trying to figure out when the Qeelocke had gotten into Roxy's jacket. After reading it 5 million times, I finally see the little critter crawl into her jacket on p.13. Duh! Oh yeah, I wanted to mention that Jade sorta looks like she might be from the Coda. The weapon looks like theirs, but I don't know much about the WildC.A.T.s, so I could be wrong.

The facial expressions are great! So much joy, surprise, bewilderment, fear, pain, and toughness. I hope that the Qeelocke will stay for a while and I think it would be cool if Grunge's skull eyes in his tattoo moved with the scenes. Yes!

Did I mention that the details are great? What happened to Grunge's jacket that he got in Las Vegas? And I'd like to know what color Burnout's hair is. Brown, red, or blond? What happened to Grunge's "flying skull tail" tattoo?

Trey "Treydog" Nielson,
Santa Cruz, CA

When Grunge got back to San Diego, he immediately swapped the snake-skin jacket for a satin Adidas warm-up jacket and a pair of roller-skates. Snakeskin just isn't Grunge. About that tattoo. Would you believe the lower half of his tat was removable? Yep, Grunge actually hit the shower, soap hit skin, and the flying skull tail just vanished. Another tale of sorts is the history of Burnout's hair, which really is brownish, reddish blond. He ingested a chameleon long ago and his hair reacts to his environment. Strange boys in *Gen*².

Dear GEN-ius People,

Since I was 6 years old, I used to read

many comics (not very well at that time!) As time passed, I learned how to choose the best ones. After some time I started collecting X-Men comics, and I felt very interested in their stories. But now that Image introduced me to the world of *Gen*², it's made me feel not only interested, but it made me feel like part of the story, which was a feeling that I had never experienced before while I was reading comics. This happened to me in the part where Roxy was dancing at the disco. I felt swell dancing with her! I could even hear the techno music. It seemed like virtual reality! Congratulations! The miracle is all yours. Keep trying hard and don't ever disappoint us. We'll be sure to support you always.

One of your loyal fans here in
Mexico City,
Oscar Orenco

Oscar, you will be very surprised to know that dozens of female fans have written in claiming they look like Freefall, dress like Freefall, act like Freefall, dye their bangs pink, have multiple body piercings, and go clubbing. And none of them have a boyfriend named Grunge.

We received mucho letters from you guys these past few weeks. Many of you dug the story, some hated the story, and some are still digging for a story. Well, in any case, your best bet is to treat *Gen*² like an episode of *Scooby Doo*: The good guys get a hunch, look for clues, seek the thugs/monsters/villains, whale on them, and toss them in the brink. End of story!

Although most of the letters were enthusiastic, some had complaints and some were just plain weird. Just about all of you need a variant cover like you need a left lung - very necessary! And many are willing to trade in vital organs, younger sisters, and a year of hot lunch for one of these bad lads. Believe it or not, Homage Studios' sweet stash of the variant covers is long gone. (We did manage to hang onto a few for the letters pages winners.) At least the trade paperback is still floating around various comic book stores. (Hope, hope.)

Oh, and one more thing: Both Rainmaker and Burnout are single, Grunge and Freefall were playing MKI, not MKII, the branch, the towel, and Anna's arm were readers' least favorite elements on p.8, and the guy who almost sucked face with Freefall was not Trent Reznor of Nine Inch Nails, but a guy who looks like Trent, named Trance. Keep the letters coming and long live youth!

—Sarah Becker

WILDSTORM RISING

STORY THUS FAR

Ages ago, the KHERUBIM and DAEMONITE races clashed in the depths of space. During one of their battles, a warship from each side crashed on Earth. For millennia, these stranded aliens have continued their war here in secrecy.

The Daemonites seek to conquer the Earth but have failed—partly because of the infighting of their Lords, HELSPONT, DEFILE, and the upstart HIGH TOWER, and partly because of the valiant efforts of the Kherubim and heroes like the WILDC.A.T.S.

To eliminate their interference, DEFILE schemed to pit the WILDC.A.T.S. against STORMWATCH, the United Nation's superteam. His manipulations led to a savage battle between the two hero teams that was only cut short when an even greater threat loomed—from the long-lost Daemonite warship.

Two decades ago, during a secret mission in Nicaragua, TEAM 7 member DEATHBLOW found a withered alien hand clutching a mysterious key. He broke off half of the key for a souvenir, setting in motion a catastrophic chain of events.

More recently, archaeologist CHARLES RUSSELL discovered the same hand. HIGH TOWER and DEFILE both recognized its significance. When their warship crashed and was lost, one of three keys needed to control it was also lost. RUSSELL had found a piece of the missing key—and a clue to the warship's location. Now the two Daemonite lords are in a race to gather the three keys and control the ship's world-shattering weaponry!

HIGH TOWER, possessing half a key and the location of the Daemonite warship, has allied himself with the WILDC.A.T.S. They need his knowledge and view him as a lesser threat than Defile. GRIFTER, unwilling to work with his hated foe, has quit the team in disgust.

Savant, who also knows the ship's location, has joined with Mr. Majestic and Union to secure the prize before either Daemonite lord can get it.

DEFILE, who currently holds one of the three keys, knows that half a key and the location of the warship rest with a member of TEAM 7. He's sent his minions after these veteran soldiers...

WILDSTORM RISING CONTINUES IN GRIFTER #1

Going solo isn't easy—especially with DEFILE's Daemonite hordes on your tail! Injured and desperate, GRIFTER has to reach DEATHBLOW to keep CRAY's alien souvenir from Daemonite hands! An explosive, action-packed first-issue from WILDSTORM!

GEN¹³ #2

**Story: Brandon Choi,
J. Scott Campbell**

Pencils: J. Scott Campbell

Inks: Alex Garner

**Letters: Richard Starkings
and Comicraft**

Color: Joe Chiodo

**Color Separations:
WildStorm Effects**

p.1, 2, 4, 6, 8, 12, 16, 17, 30, 31-34

Olyoptics

p.3, 5, 7, 9-11, 13-15, 18, 19

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**Covers by J. Scott Campbell &
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**WILDSTORM
PRODUCTIONS**